(d) whether the Supreme Court's direction will apply to promotions in all Departments of the Air-India; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) Special leave to Petition has been filed against the order of the Delhi High Court and the same has been granted by the Supreme Court. The judgement of the Supreme Court is awaited.

Soft pedalling of errant officals in Air India

2870. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Soft pedalling of errant officals" appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi of the 5th January, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether any rules had been framed as envisaged in the Service Rules for appointment to the post of Deputy Managing Director of Air India;

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether these had been or will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(f) what is the manner in which the selection and appointment to this post was presently made?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The inference contained in the news item are baseless.

(d) to (f) The post of Deputy Managing Director below the Board level is filled by selection from amongst the officers of the level of Director by the Board of Directors. The Board level appointments to the post of Dy. Managing Director are made by selection through Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) and approval by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The present appointment, which is a Board level appointment, has been made through the PESB with the approval of ACC.

Construction of Helipad in Darjeeling.

2871. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Helipad was constructed at Mirik by the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council during the last visit of the President of India to Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, whether permission was given by the Government in this regard: if not, how this project was allowed and is being allowed for the construction of a permanent helipad there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Construction of helipad can be done at the State Government's level to meet the immediate requirement of VIP movement. However, prior to undertaking actual commitment, the Ministry of Defence clears the construction of helipad from the safety angle.

Cases of pilferage at Safdarjung Airport

2872. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that on 14th, June, 1991 one man was caught at Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi carrying one part of an aeroplane costing about Rs. 1.25 lakhs;

(b) whether in another incident copper wire was removed on three occasions costing about $ 15,000;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken against the persons found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) On 14th June, 1991, an ex-employee of Indian Airlines was found carrying two

aircraft parts. These were confiscated and the matter reported to competent authority. No other incident has come to notice at the Safdarjung Airport.

Discrimination in the service conditions of Air hostesses

2873. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the directive issued by Government *vide* AV 18022/23/88-ACIA dated 16th October, 1989 stipulates that like the male cabin crew the Air hostesses should also be allowed to serve till the age of 58 years; and

(b) if so, whether that directive mean Air hostesses will not be grounded at the age of 45 years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Air hostesses in Indian Airlines can perform flying duties till the age of 58 years while in Air India they can undertake flight duties upto the age of 45 years only. The Corporation has taken this, decision keeping, in mind the long and arduous nature of duties on international flights. However, the issue of ground duties after the age of 45 years in case of Air hostesses of Air India is subjudice.

Review of use of computerised navigation system for A-320 aircraft

2874. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the French Government have recently recommended
that airlines using the airbus A-320 should review how they use a computerised navigation system that malfunctioned abroad a jet landing in Bordeaux in France recently as per the news item entitled Faulty Airbus-320 navigation system French Government puts Airlines on Alert, which appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated 14th February, 1992;

(b) whether his Ministry also propose to direct both Air India and Indian Airlines to have a similar review of their Airbus A-320 aircraft;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) On the advice of DGAC, France, DGCA, India has advised Indian Airlines to review operating procedures for VOR and DME to ensure that they satisfy the following critera:—

1. Display of the VOR raw data which is used for flying the approach on one of the two ND (Navigation Display) in ROSE/VOR mode.

2. Display of the navigation track generated by the FMGS on the other ND in ARC or ROSE/NAV mode.

3. Selection on both ND of VOR1 and VOR2 bearings (VOR1 and VOR2 switch on). If an NDB navaid is necessary for performing the approach, it may be displayed on one ND in lieu of one VOR pointer.

Before reaching the MDA and in the absence of appropriate visual ques, the final approach must not be initiated or must be interrupted in the following cases :

— any difference of bearing between VOR1 and VOR2

— VOR indication oscillation by more than 1/2 dot

— cross track error of more than 0.5 NM between VOR course and FMGS computed track.

Use of a selected guidance mode (AP or FD)

(d) Does not arise,

Repairs of A-310 aircraft by Atr bus Industry of France

2875. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air bus industry of France the manufacturer of Air bus 310 Aircraft have quoted 54,000 dollars for repairs per aircraft following corrosion into the main bulkhead of the aircraft;

(b) wheather it is also a fact that the Hindustan Aeronautic Limited have